

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Docket - 02-277. I don't think that increasing the number of broadcast stations one company can own should be allowed at this time. Not only would this reduce the number of independent views and ideas that would be available over the public airwaves, I fail to see any assurances that making any concessions to what are already, wide-reaching, coast-to-coast conglomerates would make to improving the already banal, monotone and riskless, and often artless, advertising-filled mess that the companies have already made of our national treasure of community-inspired and diversity proclaiming means of communication and their distribution.

Just yesterday one of the seven TV stations in the Houston area played a movie that for three-quarters of the show, had no audio being transmitted. It is hard to imagine that they didn't have anyone in the studio with a monitor on or maybe the executives were out of town, wining and dining some commissioners, whom, being of like mind, think that the role of government is to cater to the rights of corporations, at the expense of all its citizens.

Over-extending the rights of corporations for increased profits, at the expense of our cultural diversity and local accountability would be a gross betrayal of the public function you have been entrusted with, to regulate. One needn't think too hard about how the lack of regulation, curiously allows the need for a Savings and Loans bailout, cable prices that have never come down to a reasonable price, or how corporate greed, allowed to make bedfellows with the banks, the accountants, the lawyers, yes, even the regulators, can lead to a betrayal of all principles, save that of the greed of a few that has no bound, until they finally have a lock box on all the information and its distribution. Men of conscience would vote against Docket-02-277. Your job is to regulate the public airwaves to the greatest public good. If you simply don't want to regulate the industries involved or don't believe government should be in the business of regulating anyone or anything, then simply step down from your positions of government and look for another job where you get paid to do nothing. Just be sure to take your hypocrisy with you.

Everyday it is becoming more apparent that wars of the future will be about information and who controls it. If you made it easier for more information, from more sources, to be available to all citizens then maybe Colin Powell Sr. and George Bush Jr. would have been able to argue to the UN and the American public, respectively, with facts and not fiction. And just maybe we'd have had an informed citizenry that would've known the difference between the two.

Corporations, no matter how often they take you to dinner or how far they take you on vacation, need to be put in and kept in check. If you don't, I fear the end result will be that what is left of the public, common good will be diminished and that, in the end, all we will have, even yourself, will be a sense of betrayal.